

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03180 011745Z

73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 OMB-01 /086 W

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R 011521Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5846

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJECT: SAHARA AND ENCLAVES: SPANISH-MOROCCAN TENSIONS

1. LOCAL MEDIA JUNE 30 CLAIMED 400 MOROCCANS RESIDING IN CEUTA ARRESTED, SOME TORTURED, AND 160 FAMILIES EXPELLED FROM ENCLAVE JUNE 29-30. GOM ALSO REPORTEDLY LODGED STRONG PROTEST WITH SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND TRANSMITTED COPY OF PROTEST TO SECYGENS OF UN, ARAB LEAGUE AND OAU.

2. SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE COMMENTED PRIVATELY JUNE 30 ON EXPULSION NEWS THAT SPANISH MOVE HAD CREATED POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS DAMAGE TO SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS. ON RECENT BOMBINGS IN CEUTA AND MELILLA, SOURCE STATED FLATLY THAT JUNE 26 BOMBINGS AT CEUTA COULD NOT RPT NOT BE PROVED WORK OF GOM, BUT WAS UNWILLING TO SAY WHO ELSE HE THOUGHT MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE. HE ATTRIBUTED JUNE 27 BOMB EXPLOSION IN MELILLA (MADRID 4501) TO
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PAGE 02 RABAT 03180 011745Z

PRO-MOROCCAN BLUE MEN SPLINTER GROUP, "21 AUGUST MOVEMENT",

DISMISSING GROUP AS INCOMPETENT AMATEURS. SOURCE WAS AT PAINS ALSO TO POINT OUT SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN SPANISH VIEW BETWEEN ENCLAVES AND SAHARA. INCIDENTS IN LATTER, IF THEY DID NOT GET OUT OF HAND, COULD BE TAKEN IN STRIDE BECAUSE SPAIN DETERMINED TO LEAVE COLONY IN ANY CASE, IN HIS VIEW. CEUTA AND MELILLA PART OF SPAIN, HOWEVER, HE STRESSED, AND INCIDENTS THERE MUST BE TAKEN MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY. HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THAT IN WAKE OF CEUTA ARRESTS, THE NUMEROUS SPANISH RESIDENTS IN MOROCCO MIGHT BE SUBJECTED TO RECIPROCAL TREATMENT.

3. ON JUNE 30, QUOTING SPANISH PRESS, SEMI-OFFICIAL RADIO REPORTED ANOTHER CLASH BETWEEN SPANISH FORCES AND "SAHARAN RESISTANCE MEN", ARMED WITH GRENADES AND MACHINE GUNS, HAS TAKEN PLACE NEAR AL-AYUN. PRESS HERE HAS NOT YET COVERED INCIDENT.

4. ICJ PROCEEDINGS: ON JUNE 27, SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE TOLD US--PLUS USFP, ISTIQLAL, ALGERIAN EMBASSY AND FONMINISTRY INTERLOCUTORS--THAT MOROCCAN PRESENTATIONS ON QUESTIONS OF AD HOC JUDGE AND COMPETENCE OF COURT WERE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND SAID HE HOPED FOR ADVISORY OPINION FAVORABLE TO MOROCCO. IMPLYING HE PRESENTING EMBASSY VIEWS, SOURCE SAID SPAIN WOULD THEN HAVE PRETEXT FOR BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WITH GOM WHILE SATISFYING "LEGALISTS" IN MADRID WHO INSISTING ON OBSERVATION OF LETTER OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON SAHARA. LOCAL PRESS, MEANWHILE, TREATING MOROCCAN PRESENTATIONS BEFORE ICJ AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND COVERAGE CONTINUES TO BE OPTIMISTIC FOR OPINION FAVORABLE TO MOROCCO.

5. COMMENT: SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE, WHOSE COMMENTS JUNE 27 SEEMED DESIGNED TO STRESS SPANISH REASONABLENESS, HAD BECOME QUITE GLUM BY JUNE 30. AT PRESENT TIME, HOWEVER, WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF A RETALIATORY GOM CRACKDOWN ON SPANISH RESIDENTS. HOWEVER, CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS, NOW MARKED BY SOMEWHAT ANOMALOUS RETURN OF ENCLAVES TO CENTER STAGE, SHOWS NO SIGN OF ABATING IN ABSENCE OF ANY CLOSING OF SPANISH-MOROCCAN DIPLOMATIC GAP.
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